

Jordan Times

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جورديان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"



Israel to advertise West Bank houses

TEL AVIV (R) — State-run Israeli television has agreed to screen advertisements offering young couples cheap housing on the occupied West Bank, a broadcasting authority spokesman said Tuesday. The authority's executive committee Monday approved the advertisements, which have been prepared by the Housing Ministry, the spokesman said. In the past year Israel has intensified its settlement drive in the occupied territories despite American, European and Arab opposition. Private contractors have joined government companies in building West Bank suburbs within easy commuting distance of Tel Aviv and occupied Jerusalem. About 20,000 to 25,000 Jews currently live on the West Bank among a Palestinian population of 850,000. Israeli officials expect the Jewish population to double within a few months when houses under construction are completed.

Mine injures Israeli soldier

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was slightly injured when a water tanker he was driving ran over a land mine at a police checkpoint north east of Tel Aviv Tuesday, police said. It was not clear whether the mine had been planted recently or had been buried by Jordanian forces before the 1967 Middle East war. Police detained about 40 Arabs for questioning after the incident on a road between the occupied West Bank and the town of Kfar Saba, 16 kilometres from here.

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Arafat leaves for N.Yemen

DAMASCUS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Syria Tuesday for North Yemen after a series of meetings with senior Palestinian figures in Damascus, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) News Agency Wafa said. Mr. Arafat has been on the move almost constantly since he and thousands of PLO commandos were evacuated from Israeli-occupied West Beirut last August. North Yemen is one of eight Arab states which took in PLO commandos from Beirut.

Netherlands agrees to keep troops in Lebanon

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch parliament Monday night agreed to a government proposal that Dutch troops should remain in the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon if the U.N. extends the force's mandate. The U.N. Security Council is to decide whether to renew the mandate, which expires Wednesday.

Armenians protest against kidnapping of leader

BEIRUT (R) — Thousands of Armenians held a rally in Beirut Tuesday to protest against what they say is the kidnapping of one of their leaders by the Turkish Secret Service, Abraham Achdjan, a member of the central committee of the Tashnag Party in Lebanon, disappeared on Dec. 29. The party accused the Turkish Secret Service of kidnapping him and demanded his safe return. Speakers at the rally Tuesday denounced Turkey, which Armenians accuse of massacring 1.5 million of their people during and after the World War I. Successive Turkish governments have denied the charge. A Tashnag Party spokesman read out messages from Armenian groups calling on the Lebanese government to follow up the case and appealing to the United Nations, NATO, and the European parliament for help.

Algeria bought arms to PLO during Israeli invasion

STOCKHOLM (R) — Algeria gave the Soviet Union cash to provide arms for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last summer during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, according to Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. The minister, who visited Stockholm at the weekend, said in an interview with the liberal daily Dagens Nyheter that PLO leader Yasser Arafat wrote to his government requesting arms during the Israeli invasion. Members of the government discussed the request at a late-night meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and at four o'clock the next morning, contacted the Soviet ambassador to Algeria to give him a cheque for \$20 million. Dr. Ibrahimi told the paper. The Soviet Union flew light arms into Damascus, which reached the war front a few days later, he added.

Iran attacks French arms deal with Iraq

LONDON (R) — Iran's parliamentary speaker has attacked France over reports that it has signed an arms-for-oil deal with Iraq and accused the French of trying to disrupt the security of the Gulf. Reports of an arms deal between France and Iraq followed a visit to Paris two weeks ago by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. Mr. Aziz said in Paris that France had agreed to increase its oil purchases from Iraq and to take measures to help the Iraqis buy arms for the war with Iran. In his speech Monday, Hojatolislam Rafsanjani accused France of giving support to fugitive Iranian officers whose views were far from the professed Socialism of President Francois Mitterrand's government.

Snow hits again

Due to the weather conditions, today's Jordan Times is published in six pages only.

Saddam Hussein in Riyadh unexpectedly Iraq, Syria said near reconciliation

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq discussed the Iraq-Iran war in Riyadh Tuesday, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It said they also discussed the situation in the Arab World as well as bilateral relations.

The official Qatar News Agency in a despatch from Riyadh said it understood that Saudi efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria had achieved positive results which would be announced soon.

Iraq and Syria are ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Party and their political enmity has been aggravated by Syria's support of Iran in the 28-month-old Gulf war.

The meeting took place immediately after President Hus-

sein arrived unexpectedly in the Saudi capital.

His visit followed renewed diplomatic activity, also involving Algeria, aimed at ending the conflict which has been causing concern to the Gulf countries.

The meeting was attended by the commander of the paramilitary national guard, Crown Prince Abdullah, who returned home Tuesday after visits to Iraq and Syria during which he met President Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Earlier Tuesday, Saudi Minister of State Sheikh Mohammad

Ibrahim Massoud returned to Riyadh after delivering a message from King Fahd to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The message was believed to be related to the Gulf war.

In Stockholm this week, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi discussed the war with Olof Palme, Swedish prime minister and former United Nations mediator in the conflict. Mr. Ibrahimi also sent his under-secretary to deliver messages to the foreign ministers of all Gulf countries, including Iran.

The Gulf Arabs are hopeful that Algeria, which has friendly relations with Iran, may be able to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough in the conflict.

Previous mediation efforts by the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement have failed.

Reagan, Nakasone start talks

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone met privately at the White House Tuesday for their first formal talks on the increasingly strained trade and defence ties between Tokyo and Washington.

U.S. businessmen and labour unions have demanded help from Mr. Reagan in controlling Japanese imports. But Japanese sources said Mr. Nakasone, who arrived Monday on his first official visit to

the United States since taking office last November, had brought no dramatic offers.

He was expected to brief Mr. Reagan and other top U.S. officials on a series of trade and defence measures taken before he left Tokyo, but he would have to point out that staunch opposition from powerful political groups at home had kept him from providing any major new concessions, the sources said.

Relations between Tokyo and

Washington have also been strained by the Reagan administration's belief that Japan is not spending enough on defence.

On Monday Mr. Reagan met leading U.S. business and labour representatives, including the head of the hard-pressed United Auto Workers (UAW) Union, Douglas Fraser, who complained that the U.S.-Japan trade relationship was "discriminatory, unfair and unequal."

Gromyko calls for U.S. flexibility at Geneva talks

BONN (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Tuesday strongly criticised U.S. negotiating positions at nuclear disarmament talks in Geneva and called on Washington to show more flexibility.

Speaking at a press conference after talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn, he said Moscow would never accept the U.S. demand that it scrap all its land-based medium-range missiles.

"No, that is ruled out. We will in no case accept this zero option," he said.

The foreign minister said that Moscow's Geneva negotiators must take into account French and British land and sea-based missiles since both countries belonged to the Western Alliance and their weapons could strike Soviet

targets.

"People would regard us as rather odd if we closed our eyes and said 'no, we don't want to see them'," he said.

Mr. Gromyko arrived in Bonn on Sunday amid West Germany's impassioned election campaign debate over NATO plans to deploy new U.S. medium-range missiles in West Germany later this year. The NATO proposals have played a major role in Mr. Gromyko's two days of talks.

The Soviet minister rejected U.S. demands that the Kremlin scrap its SS-16 strategic rockets. Washington had agreed to allow Moscow the weapons in the 1970s as a counter-balance to U.S. forward-based strategic air forces in Europe, according to Mr. Gromyko.

Thai hijackers free all 7 hostages before escaping

BANGKOK (R) — Three armed hijackers of a Thai domestic aircraft Tuesday set free all seven hostages at an airport in northern Thailand and escaped in a commandeered police truck, officials said.

The hijackers, believed by officials to be followers of an opium warlord, had taken over the aircraft on a short domestic flight. They threatened to blow it up if they were not paid a ransom and given a helicopter.

Earlier Deputy Communications Minister Chumpol Silpa-Archa told reporters that the hijackers, armed with a shotgun, a hand grenade and a knife, said in a written message that they were losing patience after nearly four hours on the ground at Thailand's northern Chiang Mai Airport.

"Make your decision now. Choose between the safety of the passengers or give us what we want," the message said.

Officials at Chiang Mai said the hijackers were demanding parachutes for themselves, 300,000 baht (about \$13,000) and a new plane for their escape.

The four-member crew of the Northern Irish-built Shorts-330 which was taken over on a domestic flight from Lampang to Chiang

Mai 100 kilometres away jumped clear of the plane soon after landing. One passenger also escaped.

A government spokesman in Bangkok, quoting officials in Chiang Mai, said the three hijackers did not look like Kam-puchians and their identity was doubted.

Officials in Bangkok said they might be followers of opium warlord Chang Chee-Fu, alias Khun Sa, who dominates the illegal narcotic traffic in the infamous golden triangle.

Thai forces have skirmished with troops from Khun Sa's Burma-based Shan United Army (SUA) in recent months in a drive to destroy his distribution network across northwestern Thailand.

A year ago Thai troops launched a surprise assault on his base in Chiang Rai province and pushed his army back to Burma.

The hijackers wanted to be flown in the direction of Chiang Rai province near the Burmese border but did not give a specific destination.

They let an earlier deadline pass in exchange for a radio, food and water. Thai authorities said there had been 11 passengers, including the hijackers, on the plane when it left Lampang. None of them was foreign.

Commission clears Thatcher on Falklands crisis

LONDON (R) — The British government could not have prevented or foreseen last year's Argentine seizure of the Falkland Islands, an official inquiry into the war's origins found Tuesday.

The report of the six-month-long inquiry into last year's conflict concluded that it would not be justified in blaming or criticising the government for Argentina's decision to take military action.

The findings of the commission were given to parliament by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday simultaneously with publication of the report.

The inquiry was set up to establish how Britain came to be caught off guard when Argentine forces landed on the South Atlantic islands on April 2 in what then

Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington called "a great national humiliation."

In particular the commission probed whether the government ignored signs of Argentine intentions to seize the islands and signalled to Argentina that it would not react to a military seizure.

A British task force sent by Mrs. Thatcher recaptured the islands, a British colony since 1833, in June. The commission, made up of six members of Queen Elizabeth's Privy Council, was headed by academic Lord Franks, a former British ambassador in Washington.

Its report said there was no simple answer to the question whether the government could have prevented the seizure, carried out by thousands of Argentinian troops.

But there was no reasonable basis for suggestions that it would have been prevented had the government taken different courses of action.

The findings were a relief to many of Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative Party who had been worried that government ministers might be criticised in the House of Commons: "We have no option now except 'Fortress Falklands' if we are to continue, as I believe we should, to honour the wishes of the Falkland Islanders."

Britain, which lost 255 men in the fighting, now has a 4,000-man garrison on the Falklands to protect 1,800 islanders.

The report said then Defence Minister John Nott was told by his

officials on March 31 that Argentina had set April 2 "as the day and time for action."

The commission was satisfied the British embassy in Buenos Aires did not send a message to London predicting the day of the military action, as has been suggested in Britain.

It said no clear intelligence about the Argentine invasion was received from American sources before it took place, by satellite or otherwise.

First reactions of political commentators to the Franks report was that it gave "a clean bill of health", as one termed it, to the government and also to the Foreign Office, which had been the butt of charges that it might have misread the crisis.

General strike paralyses Italy's major industries

ROME (R) — Italy's major industries were paralysed Tuesday when millions on of workers staged an eight-hour general strike to protest against government austerity measures and stalled wage negotiations.

Hundreds of thousands of workers carrying banners proclaiming trade union unity marched through Italy's major cities in a show of defiance.

Companies in the industrial heartland of northern Italy reported a high level of strike participation. Many white collar workers also stayed away because of heavy picketing.

A spokesman for Fiat, Italy's biggest car producer, said less than

35 per cent of the work force clocked in at the company's huge Mirafiori plant in Turin, which employs more than 70,000 people.

In Milan, a Piorelli spokesman said the company's main tyre plant was at a standstill with nearly all workers on strike.

In the south, assembly lines at Alfa Romeo's car and aerospace plants outside Naples were completely unmanned and a company spokesman said the entire workforce had set off to join a mass demonstration in the city.

The centre of Milan was the scene of the biggest demonstration, in which 200,000 workers marched past the city's gothic

cathedral preceded by a brass band.

In Rome, union leaders linked arms at the head of a procession but were asked by police to keep clear of the city centre, where 10 days ago police clashed with workers outside Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani's office.

Unionists estimated that over 100,000 workers attended the Rome demonstration, while police put the number at only 25,000.

The strike was called by Italy's three big trade union federations, the Communist-dominated CGIL, Catholic-inspired CISL and Socialist-led UIL, who asked transport, commerce and state

office employees to join seven million industrial workers in the strike.

The unions are directing their protest at Confindustria, the private industrial employers' federation, because it refused to renew work contracts unless unions agree to a reform of the present system of wage indexation which gives automatic increases for inflation.

Despite the strike, there have been cracks in labour movement unity over how to respond to the government measures with disagreements between Socialist and Communist unionists.

News analysis, page 6

Carter, Ford blame Israeli settlement policy for blocking peace

NEW YORK (R) — Former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter said Tuesday Israel's policy of continuing to build settlements on occupied Arab territories was the major obstacle to Middle East peace.

In a jointly-written article in Reader's Digest magazine the two presidents said the settlements policy of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin was preventing moderate Arab efforts for a peaceful resolution of the Middle East crisis.

They added that if Israel was to halt any future settlements — an item asked for in President Reagan's peace plan — this act alone might "break the diplomatic

log-jam" that was stalling any real movement towards peace.

But both ex-presidents, who fought each other for the presidency in 1976, said Arab moderates must be willing to "step forward and negotiate for a Palestinian homeland with an Israel they recognise as a fellow nation."

A Digest spokesman said the article was written by the two presidents at the request of the magazine.

The spokesman said three Digest editors interviewed the two former presidents at their homes and later one of them prepared an article based on the two presidents' comments.

Mr. Carter and Mr. Ford then

went over the article and made changes before allowing it to be published.

They said: "It is incumbent upon the Begin government to realise that, however it may define its intentions in the West Bank and Gaza, however it may seek to rationalise its action there, the evidence is convincing to the Arab World and beyond that the Israeli leaders have simply chosen to seize these lands and hold them by force."

"This policy is the major obstacle to any moderate Arab initiative for a peaceful resolution of differences."

The two ex-presidents called on

the United States to be ready to commit every political resource to bringing Arabs and Israelis together and said it was vitally important for King Hussein to step in and negotiate with Israel.

"Hussein could make the dramatic gesture that would put the Begin government under immense pressure to reciprocate," they said.

The two presidents also called on Israel to return to the commitments it made on Palestinian autonomy during the Camp David peace talks held under the auspices of President Carter.

They said: "Our painful conclusion from events thus far is that

the Begin government is not living up to those commitments. It has shown little inclination to grant real autonomy to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza areas."

They added that it was up to the United States to make Israel aware that it was not in Israel's best interests to maintain the status quo.

"Growing American understanding and sympathy for the just rights of the Palestinians and our regard for strong and stable relations with the Arab World must be forcefully demonstrated. Our status as a great and good power is at stake," they said.

Fahd calls for Arab unity

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has called for Arab unity in future moves to bring a just and lasting peace to the Middle East, the official Saudi Press Agency said Monday night.

The Saudi monarch said time was an important factor in uniting Arab ranks against what he called Israeli expansionist plans at the expense of the Arab World.

King Fahd, speaking at a cabinet meeting in Riyadh, said Saudi Arabia had always tried to settle Arab differences.

He also reiterated Saudi support for the Palestinian people and their rights and said an Arab League mission which visited Moscow, Washington, Peking and Paris to explain an Arab peace plan for the Middle East had an important role to play.

The Arab plan, adopted last September at an Arab Summit in Fez, Morocco, called for an independent Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. King Fahd's statements followed a visit to Saudi Arabia by King Hussein.

10 Israeli Druze soldiers jailed

TEL AVIV (R) — Ten Israeli Druze soldiers have been jailed for defying orders in South Lebanon, adding to doubts about the reliability of the Druze units serving there under Israeli command.

The cases were confirmed Tuesday by a military spokeswoman, who said some of the 10 were accused at courts martial of trying to assist Druze relatives battling Christian militia in Lebanon's Shouf mountains.

Last November six other Druze soldiers were jailed for 35 days for entering a Druze village in Lebanon without permission.

The Druze, a sect that broke away from Islam in the 11th century, number 40,000 in Israel, most living in northern hill villages. Unlike Israeli Arabs, they have to do military service and as Arabic speakers they have proved a valuable component in the Israeli force occupying South Lebanon.

Full details of the charges facing the 10 soldiers have not been published. Military sources said some were stationed in Lebanon and visited Druze relatives in the Shouf mountains during short leaves without permission.

Others entered Lebanon from Israel in violation of military rules. Since Israel's invasion of Lebanon last June, some Druze from the two countries have been allowed to visit each other.

After fighting flared in the Shouf last Autumn, Israeli Druze leaders met Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Defence Minister Ariel Sharon to appeal to the Israelis not to side with Christian Falangists against Druze.

Druze units have usually been kept away from the Shouf.

Committee prepares to curb 'special sales'

AMMAN (Petra) — Aoy business establishment, while announcing reduction sales, should allow a minimum discount of 20 per cent, according to a draft law prepared by a special committee.

The committee, entrusted with the task of preparing the draft law to prevent business establishments from exploiting consumers by announcing exaggerated reductions sales, also proposes only two periods for such special sales.

The first period begins Aug. 15 and ends Sept. 15 and the second begins Jan. 15 and ends March 15, according to the committee's recommendations.

The recommendations, submitted Monday to the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulate that the retailers may be allowed to announce the sale and exhibit the products 15 days before the beginning of the above two periods.

Experiences of other countries in such affairs were taken into consideration while preparing the recommendations, a ministry spokesman said.

The recommendations will now be forwarded to the legal adviser of the ministry for formulating the draft law, the spokesman said.

Thunderbolt hits microwave station

AMMAN (Petra) — Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director-General Mohammad Shahid Isma'il said Tuesday that a thunderbolt struck a TCC microwave station in Al Ghafraneh in the Karak area.

Considerable damage was caused to a high-tension power line which supplies distribution centres of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), Mr. Isma'il said.

He went on to say that preliminary reports indicate that the damage disrupted the distribution network of the microwave station.

He added that the corporation's technical teams, in cooperation with the JEA, are working to repair the damage as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Education Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Latif Arabiyat said that, in view of the current weather conditions, the directors of education in various governorates will decide whether or not schools function on Wednesday.

Talhouni receives delegation of Soviet friendship societies

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Bahjat Talhouni Tuesday received a Soviet delegation representing the federation of Soviet societies for friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries.

During the meeting with the delegation, headed by Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society President Alexei Safanov, Mr. Talhouni reviewed the Middle East situation and emphasised the urgency of finding a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Talhouni and the delegation members also discussed parliamentary relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union and cooperation in international affairs.

Gulf delegation starts talks with CAEU team

AMMAN (Petra) — Talks between delegations representing the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Cooperation (GOIC) started here Tuesday.

CAEU Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Mohammad Al Sharif, who made a speech at the opening of the talks, outlined the goals and achievements of the Arab Economic Unity Agreement. He pointed out various fields of activity in Arab coordination in economic affairs where the CAEU and GOIC can cooperate.

In reply, GOIC Assistant Secretary-General Nasif Dabdab expressed appreciation of the efforts exerted by the CAEU General Secretariat in coordinating cooperation among Arab countries. He said the Gulf organisation hopes to reach significant results of the talks with the CAEU and improve cooperation between the two organisations.

Thirty-eight-year-old Jordanian seeks employment

Academic qualifications: Diploma in banking studies (Central Bank of Jordan, 1976)
Practical experience: Eighteen years in banking in various sections. Most of the time as chief of the section and in general management. Has also served as branch manager.
Two years experience as the manager of a contracting and construction company. Well-versed in local market conditions and public relations.
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Please call: 816314 or write P.O. Box 331, Amman.



STUCK UP IN SNOW: Some drivers had to abandon their cars and look to other means of transportation as a heavy snowfall disrupted normal life in Jordan, on Tuesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allam)

19 firms, Dutch bank and Greek ship blacklisted

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Salem Masa'deh Tuesday issued a statement blacklisting 19 foreign firms, a Dutch bank and Greek cargo vessel for violating regulations governing the Arab boycott of Israel.

Mr. Masa'deh said that letters of credit issued in favour of the firms, which include seven from the United Kingdom, four each from the United States and India, and one each from New Zealand, Belgium, Italy and West Germany should be revoked.

Mr. Masa'deh also recommended that the boycott be lifted against a French bank, three companies—a Japanese, an American and a Maltese—which have adhered to regulations governing the Arab boycott of Israel.

World Bank lends \$17m for Zarqa, Russeifa projects

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Jordan and the World Bank Monday signed an agreement under which the bank will lend \$17 million (JD 6.1 million) to cover the expenses of completing water and sewerage projects for Zarqa and Russeifa.

The agreement was signed here by the Jordanian ambassador to the U.S., Abdul Hadi Al Majali, on behalf of Jordan, and the World Bank's acting manager for the Middle East and North Africa signed for the bank.

Zarqa Civil Defence Directorate plans courses for schoolteachers

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa District Civil Defence Directorate plans to hold a course for teachers under its jurisdiction at the end of second term. Participants in the course will receive training on rescue operations, first aid and public safety.

A similar course was recently concluded in Zarqa, with 54 teachers participating in the course.

The courses are part of an annual cooperation programme between the Ministry of Education and the Civil Defence Directorate with the aim of having a civil defence committee in every school supervised by a trained team.

The Zarqa District Civil Defence Committee, headed by the district officer, has decided to hold training courses for all government employees. Each course will last one week, with two classes every day.

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JPMC delegation returns after talks in 3 countries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation representing the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) returned to Amman Monday after a 10-day visit to Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The delegation, which included JPMC Director-General Ali Al N'sour, Trade and Industry Ministry Under-Secretary and member of the company's board of directors Mohammad Saleh Al Horani and JPMC Sales Director Mohammad Bani Hani, held talks with officials of the countries it visited.

possibilities of exporting Jordanian phosphates to them.

Mr. Horani said that contracts were concluded with state-owned fertiliser companies in these countries under which 700,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates will be exported. He added that Turkey will import a major share of this quantity.

Mr. Horani also said that he held talks with senior industry and trade ministry officials of these countries on ways to strengthen cooperation in economic affairs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuseibeh transferred from U.N.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has decided to transfer Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Hazem Nuseibeh, and the ambassador to Switzerland, Abdullah Salah, to the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Amman, the Al Ra'i newspaper reported Tuesday.

Suheimat confers with Canadian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Ali Suheimat Tuesday received Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Keith Maclellan, and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries in transport.

Bank deposits increase in October

AMMAN (Petra) — Bank deposits in Jordan last October increased by JD 26,623,000 compared to the previous month, statistical bulletin issued Tuesday by the Central Bank of Jordan said. The total amount of deposits in commercial banks in October 1982 reached JD 1,122,093,000 compared to JD 1,095,470 in September 1982, the bulletin said. The value of currency issued by the Central Bank last September totalled JD 9,936,738, Central Bank officials said. The value of money issued by the bank up to the end of that month totalled JD 509,383,164 compared to JD 499,446,426 in August, the officials said.

Madaba discusses public health situation

MADABA (Petra) — The Madaba District Public Safety Committee met Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Officer Jamal Al Momani and discussed a number of topics related to drinking water, garbage, foodstuffs, traffic accidents, and preparations to cope with emergencies resulting from rains and snowfall. Mr. Momani said the inspection of shops will continue to ensure that the foodstuffs they sell are fit for human consumption. He added that the committee will also continue to check that the drinking water available to the area's residents is safe and that it is not polluted.

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Presidential aide in literary scandal

By Mary Ellen Berlin

Reuter

PARIS — A top aide to President Francois Mitterrand has become embroiled in a new literary scandal with newspapers of both the right and left accusing him of plagiarism in a recent book on clocks and time.

The aide, Jacques Attali, 39, is one of the leading literary figures to be admitted to France's inner circle of power. So far, he has tried to remain aloof from a hail of charges from fellow writers that he insulted the writing profession through intellectual dishonesty.

In the most recent development in the affair, the man behind the accusations has called for his resignation.

The story began last December when a new literary magazine, Tel, accused Mr. Attali of lifting passages from a work by German writer Ernst Juenger in his latest book, "Histoires du Temps" (Histories of Time).

The book, hailed as a brilliant work when it appeared in November, recounts man's efforts to master nature and his fellow man through his evolving conceptions of time in ancient history, the Renaissance, the industrial revolution and the modern era.

Confronted with the charge that he had neglected to include quotation marks around certain passages, Mr. Attali noted that he had cited Juenger in his bibliography and rapidly set about producing a second, rectified edition of the bestseller.

But both the second and a third printing of the book failed to dissipate the charges.

The press, in increasingly virulent articles, pointed out new instances of alleged plagiarism, misattribution of quotes by Marx and Voltaire, and three full pages lifted from German historian Jacob Burckhardt's "Essay on the Italian Renaissance."

Over the past few days, it emerged that the person who tipped the press to the passages in question was Jean Edern Hallier.

Motive: revenge

In a article published by the newspaper Le Quotidien de Paris this week, Mr. Hallier unabashedly explained that he had implicated Mr. Attali in revenge for having failed to obtain sufficient recognition by the Socialists.

Mr. Hallier said he had personally lent Mr. Attali, his former friend, the Juenger book from which the passages were alleged to

have been lifted.

Published reports have said the 46-year-old journalist, editor and author has tried unsuccessfully to obtain a government position since the Socialist administration came to power in 1981.

"The counterfeiters are in power," he wrote in the article which said he should replace Mr. Attali in his government post.

While avoiding positions as extreme as those of Mr. Hallier, newspapers across the political spectrum have joined the fray.

The leftist daily Liberation accused Mr. Attali of outrageous negligence, while the Socialist-leaning Le Matin placed the blame on carelessness by the editor.

The publisher of "Histoires du Temps," Editions Fayard, dismissed the charges, attributing the errors to technical difficulties and to Mr. Attali's heavy schedule as President Mitterrand's personal advisor.

Mr. Attali, author of nine books, a history scholar and something of a Renaissance man, has maintained his activities as university professor, accomplished musician and amateur sportsman on top of his role at the Elysee Palace.

One of his hobbies is collecting old clocks and watches, which he

has said inspired him to write the book on time.

In a recently published interview, he said he spends from four a.m. to seven a.m. each day on his writing before tackling his presidential duties. These require him to work out strategy on problems ranging from economic and social reforms to the preparation of international summits.

An energetic man of North African origin, Mr. Attali has recently become familiar to the press as Mr. Mitterrand's chief spokesman.

While not a Socialist Party member himself, he has been close to Mr. Mitterrand, also a writer, since 1974.

Since taking over as the president's closest adviser in the aftermath of the 1981 Socialist victory, he has presented the image of an efficient, hardworking technocrat.

Certain commentators have attributed the venom of the recent attacks to jealousy by fellow authors over his meteoric rise in politics.

Mr. Attali is, in any case, not alone in having to fend off such criticism. With this controversy, he joins an eminent company of public figures implicated in literary rows of recent years.

Jean-Pierre: A stark symbol of poverty and despair

By Donald Forbes

Reuter

PARIS — Amid the opulence of Paris, Jean-Pierre is a stark symbol of poverty and despair.

Homeless, penniless and jobless he flaunts rather than conceals his misery. Each day, he crouches for several hours in the street with his head bowed, a cupped hand outstretched and a placard at his feet. It says: "J'ai faim." (I am hungry).

There are scores of men like Jean-Pierre, a brotherhood of unfortunates who by accident, bad luck or inability to cope are cut off from the wealth of society.

Not to be confused with the traditional Paris clochards, those tramps who live an underground existence by choice, such men are members of what has become known as "the new poor."

Ironically, the name was coined by the Soviet news agency TASS which reported from Paris that the number of poor was so high that the French Salvation Army was distributing soup in the streets.

The report jolted public recognition of the scale of the prob-

lem.

Because of the inundation of its stations by dropouts seeking warmth, the Paris metro has cooperated with the government in creating almost 400 temporary winter beds for the homeless.

The number of homeless in Paris has risen from 5,000 to 8,000 since 1976 with the bulk of the increase occurring since 1980. A primary cause has been worsening unemployment now standing at two million nationwide.

The new poor also include illegal immigrants, released prisoners who have never managed to resume a stable life, the uneducated and sometimes the slightly mad.

Youthful tramps

They are getting younger. While many traditional clochards are middle aged or elderly, more than a third of the street people known to Bapsa, the police department responsible for them, are under 30.

The story of Jean-Pierre, a tall, dishevelled 30-year-old who declined to give his real name, is

quite typical. He tells it with an air of disbelief, bewildered by the rapidity of his descent. Four months ago, he had a job, a home and a seemingly secure future.

The fatal moment was the closure of small factory in eastern France where he worked as a storeman.

Jean-Pierre decided to try to find work in Paris. He arrived with \$300 and set up base in a small hotel.

Within four weeks, he was broke and on the streets.

"I realise now that I started out with too many illusions," he said. "I would get up early, buy the newspapers for the jobs vacant advertisements and then start telephoning."

"The reply was always the same that I wasn't what they were looking for."

Things became rough for Jean-Pierre with the onset of winter and he crossed another frontier by starting to beg.

"When you are sufficiently desperate, the difficulties melt away. You give less of a damn what people think."

Such men are an increasingly common sight, sitting cross-legged and motionless in front of luxury food shops and jewellers in the richest parts of Paris.

Their presence is a disturbing contrast with the sleekness of the French capital which visitors from the provinces say they find particularly striking.

Relations between the new poor and the clochards are uneasy and sometimes violent.

Michel, who chose a vagabond existence, used to live around the Montparnasse station and says he was driven out by aggressive young dropouts.

"The station has become too dangerous," he told one journalist. "There are some very nasty gangs there. They are always fighting or thieving and they steal from us."

Although Jean-Pierre and many like him are gentle people overtaken by catastrophe and lacking the initiative to rescue themselves, Lucien Rochefort of Bapsa said others among the younger homeless did not accept their plight.

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Missiles with 3 sides

ACCORDING to U.S. intelligence officials, the principal Soviet air-defence missile, the SA-5, is now deployed near Damascus and Homs, putting most of Israeli air space within Syrian range. The presence of the new missiles is bound to complicate the ability of Israel to defend itself, the American officials noted.

Earlier this month, the Israeli government said that SA-5 sites had already been prepared in Syria, drawing a torrent of uneasy questions from the press and politicians as to the wisdom of invading Lebanon when the result was bigger threat to Israel's security from Syria proper than that posed by the Palestinian resistance and Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Clearly, there are two sides to the American and Israeli accounts of the newly-introduced missiles. On the one hand, there is the Begin-Sharon establishment which would like to see the option of military confrontation with the Arabs always open. And there is the new American strategy of exposing to the Israeli public, subtly but surely, the dangerous policies of the Israeli government.

There should also be an Arab account, no matter how schizophrenic. Only two days ago, radical Palestinian groups met in Libya to reject not only U.S. President Reagan's Sept. 1 proposals for Middle East peace but also the Arabs' own plan for an Arab-Israeli settlement. The rest of us, save Syria and Libya and perhaps others, watched incredulously. Our account, if any, is not yet final.

If left to illusions of superiority or hallucinations of frailty, any Arab position on the Palestine problem could only further the enemy's cause, especially at this stage where neither Begin nor Reagan would give us our rights in full. It is both simple and useful then to at least know what we want as against the usual reacting to events and issues of destiny.

The Soviet missiles, if they exist, should give Syria and all of us in the Arab World a stronger feeling of security. They should also tell Israel something about the fragility of its military might and that only just peace can guarantee its real security. In the end, however, neither Israeli F-16s nor Syrian SA-5s can be the solution to this area's problems.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Attempts to split PLO unpatriotic

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview with the Al Ahrar Economic newspaper that certain Arab regimes are trying to divide the Palestinian people and impose their will on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He also stated that these regimes are seeking to prevent the PLO from political and diplomatic action, particularly as regards coordination between the PLO, Jordan and Egypt.

What Mr. Arafat clearly meant was a criticism and rejection of the non-patriotic attempts and practices aimed at influencing Palestinian decisions and making them subject to the short-sighted interests of the regimes in question. These attempts also aim to prevent the building of a unified Arab rank among Jordan, the PLO and the rest of the Arab countries.

Surprisingly enough, these attempts are being made at a time when the Arab Nation needs both to unify its ranks and to act to save the Palestinian lands usurped by Israel. Consequently, there can be no excuse for such interference in Palestinian affairs by any Arab state.

The PLO has emphasised more than once that it acts according to the interests of the Palestinian people and to its commitment to pan-Arabism. The

Arab regimes which are seeking to impose their tutelage on the PLO should realise that they will not succeed in doing so, because those who fought the immortal battle of Beirut cannot be contained either by outside pressure or interference.

The Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, have chosen to go along with Jordan as the path to the salvation of the Palestinian lands, and for formulating the future relationship between the two peoples. The Jordanian people, represented by their experienced leadership, also want to embark on this joint march, and no-one should interfere in the decisions taken by the two peoples. Neither should anyone appoint himself as a guardian of two peoples, deciding what they both jointly want to do.

On the other hand, every Arab should support the removal of all obstacles standing in the way of accepting Egypt back into the Arab fold. Egypt's return to the Arab fold means an increased strength for all the Arabs and a means to progress towards the building of a unified Arab rank, which the Arab World needs now more than ever. Therefore the interference by these regimes in the affairs of the Palestinian leadership can only be based on selfish and non-national interests.

Al Dustour: Fez consensus is key to stopping Israel

Since 1967 Israel has been concentrating on undermining Palestinian unity to achieve its goals. This is understandable from a national point of view, but when the Arab side tries to look after its interests such action is deemed unacceptable. Those who are now trying to divide the Palestinians are seeking to strike at the whole concept of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

One of the main goals of Israel has been the destruction of the PLO's military infrastructure in order to destroy its political infrastructure. The Lebanon invasion failed to destroy the PLO's political

infrastructure and showed Israel up in front of the world as the aggressor. It also led to the PLO gaining support internationally. Thus any Arab action to undermine Palestinian unity and the PLO in particular is a destructive one, which inevitably works in the interests of Israeli designs and helps it to achieve the objectives of its military invasion of Lebanon.

Only strict adherence to the Arab consensus achieved at the Fez summit can frustrate the achievement of Israel's expansionist and settlement ambitions.

Meeting aimed at preparing official policy on nuclear arms

Prelates meet in Rome to discuss morality of nuclear deterrence

By Tamy Austin

an official policy on nuclear arms.

Rome — A church document on every aspect of U.S. nuclear weapons policy will be on the agenda when Catholic prelates from the United States and Western Europe gather in Rome this week to discuss the morality of nuclear deterrence.

The document is a draft statement to which the American bishops gave strong support at a meeting in November, and its adoption by the council already has

been agreed in Washington this week. Archbishop Joseph Bernardin of Chicago said French and West German bishops were "eager to dialogue with us" about the statement, which is in the form of a letter to church members and broke new ground for the church.

The Vatican said the meeting, which is described as of "of and

Precedes Bush

The bishops' meeting comes as President Ronald Reagan is planning to send Vice-President George Bush round the European allies to test their attitude to a nuclear arms control offer by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov. Archbishop Bernardin said the European church would be represented by the presidents of the Catholic bishops' conferences, including Cardinal Basil Hume of England and Gordon Gray of Scotland.

The draft statement supported by the American bishops in November is now being revised for another full meeting of the U.S. bishops in Chicago next May, and it reflects the change in recent years in church attitudes to warfare. During his four-year pontificate the present Pope has given the church an active role in promoting peace, based on Christ's

Just wars

The edict of Artes in 314 A.D. threatened excommunication to Christians who refused to serve in the Christian Roman emperor's armies in peacetime. In the year 430 A.D., Saint Augustine said wars were "just" if they sought to right wrongs, so warfare in general could not be deemed sinful. By the year 1215, Catholic theologians had pronounced that wars were

But Saint Thomas Aquinas in 1274 did say that "those who wage just wars must be in search of peace."

Last summer he visited both Britain and Argentina during their conflict over the Falkland Islands

The pace of events connected with the Arab-Israeli dispute is moving so fast these days that one rarely has the chance to step back and assess broader trends. It is important that such an exercise be performed regularly, lest we fall into the trap of confusing form with substance.

Much has happened during the past six months, since the combination of American arms and money and Israeli soldiery summarily put to rest the fiction of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity, along with the lives of many thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians. The most significant aftermath of the invasion and occupation of Lebanon by the Israeli-American combine has been the "sense of urgency" that has been injected into the Arab-Israeli peace-making picture by the Reagan initiative of Sept. 1.

Whether or not the urgency is warranted will only be determined by history itself. But it is clear that the onus of urgency falls, in the first instance, upon Jordan and the Palestinians — not because divine law or natural imperatives so dictate, but rather because the political leadership of the United States has decided to put Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the spot, if not in the hot seat.

The accelerated pace of Jordanian-Palestinian discussions, both on short-term tactical matters relating to the mechanics of the negotiating pro-

cess and long-term strategic objectives related to ultimate association of some sort between Palestinian and Jordanian political units on both sides of the river, has moved ahead very quickly in obvious response to the latest events in the region. The nature of the political process now taking place both among the Arabs (the PLO and Jordan most importantly) and between the Arabs and the United States needs some deeper analysis and evaluation. Is our approach reasonable? Who is calling the shots? Is this the way to peace?

These are, as people on all sides are prone to remind us these days, matters of destiny, and on the destiny front it would appear that the Americans and the Israelis have done considerably better than the Arabs during the past three or four decades. Nevertheless, destiny is not too strong a word in which to envelop the current situation, and for this reason it is imperative that the public debate of these matters be considerably broadened, especially in the Arab World.

It seems to me that the entire range of developments now taking place is slightly flawed by one factor — the fact that America-Israeli acts, and the Arabs respond, or, as usually happens, the Arabs don't respond. If we step back from the day-to-day arena and ponder the broader picture of the past six months, we see that we are involved in something that closely resembles an American daytime

quiz show.

The United States is the master of ceremonies, laying down the rules of the game and handing out prizes to the contestants. When America pushes the button that unleashes or at least does not prevent an invasion-occupation, America-Israel then invade and occupy Lebanon, the American president declares we have a new "opportunity" for peace, an American initiative is launched, and the Arab World reacts by walking in paths delineated by the same people who controlled the invasion-occupation button and provided the guns in the first place.

This has the unfortunate effect of making the Arabs look like meek, passive participants in a quiz game they don't really understand or control, but can't stop playing. I think the time is right to reverse this situation and start pushing some buttons of our own. More specifically, we should get the monkey off our backs and not allow ourselves to remain in a situation in which our peaceful intentions are judged according to the standards and criteria of the American political establishment that has proved to be, for most of the past three or four decades, our enemy's armourer and lifeline.

The pressure that is being placed on Jordan and the PLO to "join the peace process" is wholly artificial insofar as it emanates from a political culture in the United States that has made a speciality of providing Israel with

money, arms and solace to kill and occupy Arabs for nearly four decades.

This fact, however, does not deny the parallel reality that Jordan and the PLO are deeply interested in and committed to a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It would be appropriate now to reverse the tables and put the monkey on the back of the United States and Israel, by a joint Jordanian-PLO declaration of our terms for peace and our unequivocal desire for a genuine and durable peace agreement that would be based on the coexistence of the states of Jordan, Palestine and Israel in the territory that was mandated to Great Britain some 60 years ago and has not had a quiet moment ever since.

Our terms for peace are clear, but have been enunciated in more cryptic terms in a whole series of declarations in recent years, including most notably the Baghdad and Fez summits, the Palestine National Council resolutions and the declarations of King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. It would be appropriate for Jordan and the PLO now jointly to clarify our terms for peace and thus put the onus of peace-making on the Americans and the Israelis.

Jordan and the PLO are being subjected to show business pressures and expectations that are not in line with the reality of the peace-making intentions of all concerned. If the American gov-

ernment increases aid to Israel in the wake of the events of 1982, why are Jordan and the PLO the ones who are asked to make a step for peace? The artificiality, the present situation is astounding. It would be a neat trick if Jordan and the PLO jointly to put it around on the United States an Israel. It could be done without sacrificing either one's principle or political positions.

A conditional declaration of peace and coexistence with Israel by Jordan and the PLO would be politically realistic. It should simply put into plain, clear words of willingness to live in peace with an Israeli state whose final borders would be negotiated with Jordan and the Palestinians, represented by the PLO — but only on the condition that Israel and the United States enter into the negotiating on the basis of achieving a condition and a process of national self-determination for the Palestinians.

Such a declaration would be nothing new. We have said it many times, but always using cryptic, vague terminology. Some precision now would take away from the Americans and the Israelis the excuse they have to apply false pressures on Jordan and the PLO in the name of us having in put our cards on the table. It's time we started pushing our own buttons and asking other to respond to our impulses for peace.

Growing pains of a country scarred by war or something more serious

Zimbabwe: The strains begin to tell

By Michael Holman

Growing pains

It is almost as if a nightmare is returning to Zimbabwe, nearly three years to the day after a formal ceasefire came into effect, ending the country's seven-year guerrilla war and in turn leading to independence elections.

The recent brutal killings in Matabeleland highlight the insecurity in the south; a crude form of fuel rationing has been reintroduced to cope with a dire petrol shortage; the draconian "security" laws inherited from Mr. Ian Smith, the former prime minister, are applied so forcefully that indemnity legislation has had to be reintroduced to protect members of the security forces from prosecutions; and the ruling Zanu-PF of Mr. Robert Mugabe exerts its authority over the media with almost as much rigour as the former Rhodesian Front of Mr. Smith.

The morale of the dwindling white community — whose skills remain vital to the economy — is falling, while tensions between the Ndebele-Bikomo and the Shona-based Zanu-PF of Mr. Mugabe are heightening. Potential foreign investors look on askance, and Western governments anxiously follow events in a country which has a key geopolitical position in Southern Africa.

The question that must be asked is whether these are the growing pains of a country still scarred by war, whose protagonists are sometimes slow to accept Prime Minister Mugabe's election victory call for reconciliation, or whether something more serious is afoot. The evidence of several senior and respected Zimbabweans, from differing political and ethnic backgrounds, has two things in common: they all agree that Zimbabwe is not simply slipping back to the bad old days of the civil war; but they are all deeply uneasy about the future.

A leading Shona businessman who worked in the country throughout the Smith years expresses embarrassment about the empty rhetoric and lack of realism of the recently-published development plan, and bemoans the lack of understanding for his problems in the ministries he has to deal with.

A senior civil servant in a sensitive ministry is more concerned about the external threat. Every one of the white officials who have left his ministry have gone to South Africa, he says. "We had trusted them, we let them sit in on top level meetings here and abroad." He points out that a senior white intelligence official responsible at one stage for the security not only of the prime minister but of visiting heads of state, actually defected to Pretoria.

A white Zimbabwean who has long maintained black nationalist sympathies is now cynical, as he cites cases of high living, corruption and incompetence among what he sees as a new elite. While professing socialism and egalitarianism, its members do little more than tinker with the institutions they inherited, he maintains.

Achievement

To put the current events in perspective, it is well to remember that at the peak of the war some 500 people a month were dying and hundreds of thousands were either forcibly confined to fenced villages or living as refugees. Eventually, 40 per cent of the country's budget went on military spending. Much of the then Rhodesia became no-go areas, many roads were unsafe at night, and on some main routes one travelled in a military convoy. Around 100,000 men and women, black and white, Shona and Ndebele, were carrying arms. The white minority represented no one but themselves, one in around 25 of the population.

The end of that conflict remains a remarkable achievement and has paved the way for a better society. School enrolment has more than doubled, for example, and health care is reaching far more people. Yet Zimbabwe's prob-

lems, with catastrophic effects for Zimbabwe and its neighbours. And as these strains mount the government is falling back on an intolerant, often brutal treatment of opposition, real or imagined.

The difficulties are compounded by the bleak economic prospects for 1983 (after two years of extraordinary growth), caused in part by poor export prices and the world recession, which inevitably frustrate post-independence expectations.

Of all the stresses and strains the government is under perhaps the most painful, and ultimately the most dangerous, involves South Africa. Its apartheid system is bitterly opposed by the Zimbabwe government but Mr. Mugabe must maintain his practical links: the Republic's ports handle 75 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade, and South Africa is Zimbabwe's largest export market, especially for manufactured goods. As in the days of Mr. Smith, Pretoria can exert its influence through rail and fuel supplies and once again Pretoria's hand is on the petrol tap.

Fuel crisis

The origin of the current fuel crisis, with motorists queuing all night for petrol, lies in the Dec. 9 sabotage of fuel tanks at the Mozambique port of Beira, by the so-called Mozambique Resistance Movement (MRM). It was the latest in a series of attacks on road and rail routes — and on the Louro-owned oil pipeline itself, running from Beira to Mutema on Zimbabwe's eastern border.

The main aim of the MRM, allegedly with covert support of South Africa, is the overthrow of President Samora Machel of Mozambique. But in the process they are undermining both Mr. Mugabe and the other black states of the region, who are trying to reduce their trade and transport dependence on Pretoria through the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC).

Although information remains sketchy, fresh fuel supplies via Beira and the pipeline are unlikely to arrive in Zimbabwe before mid-January. In the meantime, the government has been placed in the embarrassing position of bringing in extra fuel through South Africa, from Maputo in Mozambique. It may yet be forced to buy its oil supplies direct from the Republic. Mr. Emmerson Munangagwa, Zimbabwe's minister with responsibility for security, has no doubts about Pretoria's intentions. "The South African government has taken it upon itself to destabilise the region," he said in an interview last week. "They are using two instruments — military and economic."

On the military front he accuses South Africa of, amongst other activities, establishing four military camps holding some 4,000 recruits from Matabeleland, infiltrating them in groups into Zimbabwe where they pose as Nkomo

supporters, and "commit crimes, make roadblocks and kill people."

Neighbour's conflict

On the economic front, he says, "South Africa attacks us indirectly by supporting the Mozambique resistance movement and instructing them to blow up the railway lines to Beira and Maputo, and the oil pipeline from Beira to Mutema," as well as the fuel tank farm at Beira.

In an effort to protect its supply route — which has been sabotaged in the past — Zimbabwe is being drawn into its neighbour's conflict. Since November, according to diplomats in Harare and visitors from Mozambique, Zimbabwean troops at battalion strength (700-800) have been posted at strategic points such as at pumping stations on the 174 mile oil pipeline. Mr. Munangagwa, however, maintains that they have been sent simply to protect repair gangs and have stayed no longer than two or three days at a time.

The country's national army is also occupied on the domestic front in Matabeleland, where Mr. Nkomo's Zanu won all but one of the 16 seats at stake in the 1980 elections (to give a total of 20 in the 100-seat parliament).

The security problems — hit and run attacks on farms, stores and buses — are carried out mainly by former members of Mr. Nkomo's Zipra guerrilla force, who have deserted the integrated national army. Some 100 people have been killed over the past year, including more than a dozen whites. The desertions go back to early 1981 when Zipra units fought in Bulawayo and elsewhere with Zanu, the guerrilla army of Mr. Mugabe. The uneasy truce between Zanu and Zanu began to crumble and the integration of the two forces into a national army was jeopardised.

The discovery of arms caches on Zanu property in February last year led to a further deterioration between the parties, including the sacking of Mr. Nkomo from the cabinet, and the rate of desertions increased. The number of deserters in now put at anywhere between 2,000 and 4,000, of whom several hundred, armed with AK47 rifles, are living off the Matabeleland countryside, sometimes taking refuge across the border in Botswana.

Villagers in the province have been subjected to tough and often brutal interrogation by the security forces in their search for bandits. They are caught between the demands for food and shelter of armed "dissidents," common bandits, (and possibly South African-backed infiltrators, as Mr. Munangagwa alleges) and the equally forceful demands of a Zanu-dominated army seeking information.

A predicament

Mr. Nkomo, a backbencher, since his sacking, is in a predicament. The younger members of his party resent what they see as

their exclusion from senior government positions, and jobs in state corporations, the civil service or diplomatic posts, and feel that Mr. Nkomo's leadership is lacking. Older members of the party tend to feel resigned to the inevitability of a one party state canvassed by Mr. Mugabe last year. They believe that Zanu has little choice but to co-operate in its own demise.

There are other worrying domestic developments. The military vote — though now reduced to about 12 per cent of the budget — is nevertheless nearly five times the allocation it is probably the most sensitive medium-term problem facing Mr. Mugabe: the resettlement of some 162,000 peasant families and the need to persuade their children to live on the land and not to add to the growing pool of urban unemployed.

Progress is painfully slow — perhaps 12,000 families have been resettled so far, while some of thousands of squatters take the law into their own hands. The demand for individual plots, however, simply cannot be satisfied for there is not enough land within Zanu-PF itself, there is a continuing jockeying for authority between what might be termed the radical and pragmatic groups. Some of the consequences of these internal divisions are reflected in apparent contradictions in government policies, and their application. Mr. Mugabe heads an avowedly socialist administration which regularly condemns capitalism, imperialism and associated government and institutions. Yet the West is being wooed for, and is providing, most of the aid and the little foreign investment that is coming in.

The recently published three-year development plan is an example of a certain confusion. Misgivings about the government's technical abilities are aroused by a plan which sets unrealistic targets, contains anomalies, and is studded with jargon which raises doubts about the influence of pragmatists in the economic and planning ministries such as Dr. Bernard Chidzero, the minister himself. It is difficult to find anyone who believes that the projected growth rate of 8 per cent a year over the plan period is realistic (growth last year is put at 2-3 per cent and likely to be around nil this year).

Whatever shortcomings there may be in the plan, or in the construction and implementation of government policies, arguably the most serious problems facing Zimbabwe remain political tensions within the country and in the region as a whole.

Zimbabwe is discovering its vulnerability as a front-line state and in unfriendly neighbour can exploit those tensions. As long as Pretoria and Black Africa are at loggerheads, Mr. Mugabe's government, along with other states in Southern Africa, will pay a high price.

From the Financial Times

WORLD

World awaits Cosmos 1402 crash

LONDON (R) — Despite Soviet assurances that a descending nuclear-powered spy satellite will pose no danger when it hits the earth, other governments are taking no chances.

The threat of a chunk of radioactive space junk hurtling at random to earth in the next few weeks has scientists round the world anxiously scanning their monitoring gear and cleanup teams on standby. But the chances of radioactive debris from the Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 are slim, and the prospect of its unguided return has not sent governments into a tailspin.

Cosmos 1402, described by U.S. officials as a spy satellite sent aloft to observe world naval traffic, ran into trouble last month and Soviet reports said it was fragmented under instructions from earth on Dec 28.

A Soviet scientist says the fuel core of the satellite's reactor is guaranteed to burn up before returning to earth, with no radiation hazard, and U.S. defence officials acknowledge there is little chance that it will crash intact and create a serious radiation threat.

The American officials said the satellite could come down towards the end of this month, while Soviet space scientist Oleg Byelotserkovsky forecast a mid-February descent.

The nuclear power pack would be dispersed in fine particles, with radiation within accepted international limits, he said. If fragments crashed in an inhabited area, "the radiation situation should not be dangerous for the people and the environment."

There is a 70 per cent chance that any debris from Cosmos 1402 will land at sea. But authorities in several countries are preparing for fast detection and cleanup if it hits land.

Canada, where a Soviet nuclear-powered satellite landed in deserted Arctic wastes in 1978, has drawn up plans for a major search on a three per cent chance that Cosmos 1402 will come down on its territory.

"It is a tremendous undertaking," a defence ministry spokesman in Ottawa said. "Civilian air traffic will have to be controlled during reentry and there will also be intensive military flying in the area once it has landed."

The 1978 cleanup involved 1,000 military personnel and scores of civilians and cost six million dollars (\$7.4 million), half of which Moscow eventually agreed to pay.

In Canada, the United States and several other countries, special cleanup teams are on standby, and Washington has offered to send its experts to aid foreign governments if requested.

Army units, including chemical teams, are on alert in Japan, meteorological stations in Switzerland are checking for any rise in radioactivity in the air and West Germany has set up a crisis unit to liaise with Washington and NATO in Belgium.

Britain's radar tracking station is keeping a close watch on Cosmos 1402 and the government has dusted off guidelines issued to police in 1978 on handling radiation.

However, a West German interior ministry spokesman voiced the common sentiment: "There's not much we can do."

Public concern appeared to centre as much on damage as on radioactive fallout.

"The worst damage would result from the physical impact of a piece (of satellite) weighing several kilos that falls from the sky onto buildings or other installations," a Swiss interior ministry spokesman said.

The last scare over space junk crashing to earth was in 1979 when the U.S. Skylab space laboratory broke up over western Australia. There was no damage, but the event sparked a big search for debris by souvenir hunters.

U.N. chief thinks Reagan wants arms disarmament

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he believed President Reagan had a sincere desire to reach an accord with the Soviet Union on nuclear disarmament.

He said in an interview with a group of journalists that for the first time in years a political atmosphere was developing that was conducive to serious East-West discussions on disarmament. The disarmament proposals recently offered by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov deserved serious consideration, he said.

Last Friday Mr. Perez de Cuellar held talks in Washington with President Reagan, Vice-President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz.

He said that these talks, coupled with discussions with Western European delegates at the United Nations, had left a very clear impression that the West was seriously considering the Soviet plan. It was not important who made disarmament proposals first, he said. What was important was to get around a conference table and talk seriously about disarmament.

Saying again that the Soviet proposals were very important, Mr. Perez de Cuellar noted that the Warsaw treaty powers and the

NATO states had advanced ideas for disarmament. Both sides were "really interested in discussing disarmament and reaching a conclusion," he said.

"I think the Soviet government has been very constructive by the simple fact of putting on the table its proposals."

"What now is important is to start discussing seriously, not only on the basis of these proposals, but we also have the committee on disarmament."

This was a reference to a body under U.N. auspices which for years has been trying at Geneva to narrow East-West differences.

Commending the efforts of private citizens, manifested in anti-war demonstrations that included a turnout of 500,000 people in New York during the U.N. special session on disarmament last June, the secretary general said they should maintain their pressure on governments "to force them to go to the negotiating table."

Asked about the Middle East, the U.N.'s longest-running problem, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said one or two member states wanted to keep the U.N. out of any involvement in the search for a settlement.

Chinese ex-party chief executed for corruption

PEKING (R) — A Chinese provincial official has been executed for corruption and the official press Tuesday warned other criminals "frenziedly sabotaging" the national economy that they would be put to death as well.

"If their crimes merit only the death sentence, we must put them to death," said the People's Daily commenting on Monday's execution of Wang Zhong, the 56-year-old former Communist Party chief in a county of Guangdong province bordering Hong Kong.

Wang was convicted of defrauding the state of nearly 70,000 yuan (\$53,800) by embezzling watches and electrical goods seized by customs officials and taking bribes from people wishing to go to Hong Kong.

Chinese courts regularly order the death penalty for murder and for some other violent crime such as rape. Execution is usually by a single bullet in the back of the head.

In its editorial Tuesday, the People's Daily said fighting

economic crime was vital at a time when China was opening up to foreign influences in its drive for modernisation, while stimulating the economy at home.

The People's Daily said that under Wang's influence "dividing up captured contraband had become a common practice among some cadres (officials) in Haikang county."

"Smuggling and the peddling of contraband was rampant in the county for a time, putting society into disorder, seriously harming the party style and social mood as well as Socialist economic construction."

Premier Zhao Ziyang told the National People's Congress (parliament) in November that more than 100,000 cases of economic crime had been uncovered in the anti-corruption campaign so far.

Only a small number involved senior officials, none at national level, he said, adding: "These cases either have been or are being dealt with in all seriousness."

Italian workers stage huge challenge to Rome

By Brian Childs
Reuters

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani, who has put his coalition government's political life on the line in defence of economic austerity, faced a fresh challenge from striking industrial workers Tuesday.

But many economists say the measures to reduce public sector borrowing and raise taxes are hardly worth fighting for.

Vittorio Merloni, spokesman for Italy's private sector employers, says the mix of higher taxes and lower spending provokes pain without curing an inflation rate of close to 17 per cent.

Millions of workers Tuesday observed calls for an eight-hour strike from three big union federations, the Communist-dominated CGIL, the Catholic-inspired CISL and the Socialist-led UIL, paralysing production in the industrial heartland of the north.

While the battle to prune public sector borrowing has been attacked by employers and unions, it has also split the brittle six-week-old government coalition of right-wing Christian Democrats, Socialists and minority parties.

Political sources say passions have been fed by a widespread belief that a government defeat over its economic policy would bring early general elections.

Defections by coalition party members brought Mr. Fanfani to within one vote of defeat in parliament last week in a ballot on part of the austerity package doubling the road tax on diesel-engined cars.

The package also includes measures to increase property taxes and a once-only surtax on the earnings of the self-employed.

The prime minister and his economic ministers say the new measures and others contained in the draft 1983 budget must be pushed through to hold public sector borrowing at last year's 71,000 billion lire (\$52 billion).

But economists critical of government policies say little more than half these savings may be realised.

Past attempts to cut costs have foundered on political opposition to higher health and insurance charges, and spending overruns by an unwieldy bureaucracy.

The economists also say that even if the draft budget and austerity package were accepted by parliament, normal administrative delays would limit their impact on this year's deficit.

Seeking his first parliamentary vote of confidence last month, Mr. Fanfani urged reforms to streamline what he called the Baroque procedures of Italian government.

But economists say his austerity proposals, even if fully implemented, owe little to reformist ideals.

Results of the last municipal elections in 1977, mainly as a demonstration of discontent over the government's economic record.

After a year of Socialist-inspired expansionary policies, the government embarked last June on a strategy of austerity, calling for national effort and sacrifice to curb inflation.

The economy is the central target for Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Chirac, as well as for former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, who is also associated with the UDF.

According to all three, the Mitterrand administration has demonstrated incompetence, disrupted the economy with its nationalisation programme, crippled the franc and run France into heavy debt.

In a broadcast interview on Sunday, the former president said the elections would demonstrate a "great disillusionment" among the electorate that could force President Mitterrand to call early elections.

The issue has once again raised the question of the "legitimacy" of governments under the constitutional system of the 24-year-old Fifth French Republic.

Under the system, tailored to suit the late Charles de Gaulle, France has an executive president whose government has until now been based on a sympathetic parliamentary majority.

Mr. Barre said at the weekend

Outspoken Gabonese leader upsets Mitterrand with speech at banquet

LIBREVILLE (R) — Gabonese leader Omar Bongo has startled visiting French President Francois Mitterrand by threatening to expel French expatriates who meddle in Gabon's internal affairs.

President Bongo's impromptu remarks came during a state banquet at his marble palace Monday night in honour of Mr. Mitterrand, who earlier met some of the 25,000 French citizens living in the Central African country.

In other departures from his prepared text, the outspoken Gabonese president answered talks on his regime's human rights record and publicly called on France to build him a nuclear reactor.

Mr. Mitterrand, apparently taken aback like others in the audience, responded cautiously in his own speech, saying the reactor project had to be studied. He added that the French community in Gabon, one of the largest in

Africa, was "dear" to him.

The Gabonese leader told French expatriates: "While you are here you must respect the policies of President Bongo. If not, your place is not in Gabon."

As for those who contested his rule or brought French inter-party squabbles to Gabon, Mr. Bongo said: "I will put them on an aeroplane and send them back to France."

French residents in Libreville, capital of the oil-rich but underdeveloped country of one million, said President Bongo had issued similar warnings in the past. But they said they were shocked that he had repeated them in Mr. Mitterrand's presence.

The French president had arrived Monday morning on the last leg of a tour of three Francophone countries.

Official ceremonies had earlier stressed the extent of French co-operation and commercial

interests in Gabon, one of the continent's richest countries in terms of per capita income.

Mr. Bongo disclosed in his speech at the sumptuously-appointed palace that his desire to build a reactor, using local uranium, was discussed in private talks with his guest.

"I asked you to send experts so we can build a nuclear reactor, for peaceful purposes, because we must think of the post-petroleum period," he said.

French officials had declined to comment on this aspect of the talks or on suggestions that President Bongo would seek help on the project from elsewhere if France refused to provide it.

"You have asked for a nuclear reactor of modest size. I think a study is necessary," President Mitterrand replied in his speech, saying instructions would be given for a team of French experts to look into the proposal.

Greece blunt on Poland, Middle East

ATHENS (R) — Greece, which is due to assume the presidency of the European Community later this year, Tuesday condemned Western sanctions over martial law in Poland and called for Palestinian self-determination.

Addressing a conference of U.S. Congressmen and deputies from the European Parliament, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said Greece had strongly attacked the imposition of martial law in Poland 13 months ago.

But he added: "The imposition of sanctions is anything but favourable to democratisation (in Poland). On the contrary, it creates a climate of confrontation."

He said that because there was a danger of World War, the improvement of the climate of East-West relations must take top priority among foreign policy considerations.

On the Middle East, Mr. Papandreu said "certainly Israel has the right to live within secure frontiers. But equally the Palestinians have the right to autonomy, to live within their own state."

Mr. Papandreu did not make clear whether his Socialist government was still calling for a fully independent Palestinian state, as it has done in the past.

Late last year, while stressing Greece's total diplomatic support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he said there were "certain positive points" in the U.S. Middle East peace plan, which calls for a Palestinian entity in association with Jordan.

Political commentators have predicted difficulties over European Community foreign policy in the second half of this year when Greece assumes the rotating Community presidency.

On Afghanistan, Mr. Papandreu said Greece condemned the Soviet intervention without reservation.

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Pope given dossier on desaparacidos

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II has received a dossier compiled by a human rights group on over 7,000 people said to have disappeared in Argentina since 1976, Vatican sources said Tuesday.

Brazilian Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns of Sao Paulo gave the dossier to the pontiff during a private audience in the Vatican, Monday, they said.

The Vatican makes no official comment on private papal audiences, but the sources said the dossier contained all the available details on 7,293 "desaparecidos" who vanished in Argentina between 1976 and 1982.

The data was collected by a human rights group affiliated to the archdiocese of Sao Paulo, and Cardinal Arns himself wrote a preface to the dossier.

American bishops discuss nuclear arms in Europe

VATICAN CITY (R) — American bishops who have spearheaded Roman Catholic opposition to the nuclear arms race met European churchmen and Vatican officials here Tuesday to talk about their campaign.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago headed the U.S. delegation to the meeting, which was described by a Vatican spokesman as "informal and private."

The talks began two days after the Pope appealed to the superpowers to achieve the maximum possible nuclear arms reductions in their negotiations in Geneva.

Vatican sources said a draft pastoral letter from the American bishops that challenges fundamental assumptions and defence strategies of the Reagan administration was at the centre of the discussion.

The draft has already brought an angry response from the White House but Vatican sources said it contained nothing at odds with

Pope John Paul's own attacks on the arms race.

No official statement is expected to come from the meeting, but it could prove crucial in formulating official church policy.

The delegates include bishops from West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain — the five countries where NATO will deploy new U.S. Cruise and Pershing missiles if the Geneva arms talks fail.

Vatican sources said the bishops were aware that priests and lay people throughout Europe and America were looking to the hierarchy for guidance as the moral issue of nuclear war has grown in public concern.

The Pope has condemned the increase in nuclear arsenals and U.S. Vice President George Bush is to tour Europe later this month to test allied attitudes to a nuclear arms control offer made by Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

French opposition campaigns enthusiastically for local elections

By Charles Bremner
Reuters

PARIS — France's opposition leaders, homing in on a new case of apparent government muddle, have embarked on intense campaigns for local elections that they say will show a majority of Frenchmen have already had enough of Socialism.

Over the past week Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist opposition, and former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who heads the centrist UDF grouping, have thrown their weight into the battle for France's 34,414 town halls with all the energy of a general election.

The national stakes in the March 6 vote are low because the country is not due to face a parliamentary poll until 1986 but, as the only major vote until then, its outcome will shape the French political landscape for years.

The next presidential election is scheduled for 1988.

For the two main opposition groupings, ousted from 23 years of power by the Socialists in 1981, the election presents the country with a chance to reject the policies of President Francois Mitterrand and his administration.

For the Socialists and their junior partners the Communist Party, the election has become an exercise in damage limitation.

Opinion polls and party experts are predicting heavy losses for the left wing compared with the

results of the last municipal elections in 1977, mainly as a demonstration of discontent over the government's economic record.

After a year of Socialist-inspired expansionary policies, the government embarked last June on a strategy of austerity, calling for national effort and sacrifice to curb inflation.

The economy is the central target for Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Chirac, as well as for former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, who is also associated with the UDF.

According to all three, the Mitterrand administration has demonstrated incompetence, disrupted the economy with its nationalisation programme, crippled the franc and run France into heavy debt.

In a broadcast interview on Sunday, the former president said the elections would demonstrate a "great disillusionment" among the electorate that could force President Mitterrand to call early elections.

The issue has once again raised the question of the "legitimacy" of governments under the constitutional system of the 24-year-old Fifth French Republic.

Under the system, tailored to suit the late Charles de Gaulle, France has an executive president whose government has until now been based on a sympathetic parliamentary majority.

Mr. Barre said at the weekend

But for many of its supporters the government lost both ways. Marin de Paris, the daily closest to the administration, said it had managed to "cast doubt on the credibility of its economic policy with magnificent lack of concern."

"Lack of cohesion"

Le Matin said the government had thrown away an opportunity to play up contradictions in the campaign speeches of Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and former Premier Barre. "It chose to demonstrate once again a lack of cohesion which has already done it great disservice in the eyes of public opinion," Le Matin said.

Mr. Mauroy has already run into trouble over conflicting statements from his ministers and decisions to reverse policy over the economy and a plan to reform Paris city government.

While the UDF and the Gaullist RPR have maintained a fairly united front for the municipal elections, the Socialists and Communist alliance has come under strain.

They agreed to run joint lists of candidates after three months of wrangling over whose candidates should head the ticket in a series of key cities, a task made more complicated by a new system of proportional representation.

Political commentators say the election results could prove deci-

sive for the future of the alliance, forged when President Mitterrand brought the Communists into government.

Partial regional elections last year, opinion polls and a national trade union vote have all pointed to a continuing decline in public support for the Communists and their leader Georges Marchais, heavily defeated in the 1981 elections.

The electoral weakness of the once-powerful party has led it to go along with foreign and domestic initiatives that conflict with its orthodox Marxist and pro-Moscow stance. But the press has reported growing unrest from party militants who feel the link with the government is ultimately suicidal.

Mr. Mitterrand is reported to be contemplating a break with the Communists that would free him to consolidate a shift by his administration towards the centre of politics, highlighted since September by the accent on measures to boost a business revival.

Newspapers have been speculating on plans Mr. Mitterrand is said to have made for a more centrist government that would include figures from outside the Socialists Party.

The risk for the president would come from exposing his administration to attack on its left from the Communists and their powerful trade union allies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

George Wallace takes over Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (R) — George C. Wallace, 63, formerly a white supremacist, was sworn in as Alabama's governor, re-elected on a racial harmony ticket. Mr. Wallace, a Democrat who left office after three terms in 1979, said: "I will always take pride in the broad cross-section of our population who supported me in my campaign for this office—persons of all races, creeds, colour and religious persuasion."

Tabatabai arrested in West Germany

DUESSELDORF (R) — Former Iranian Deputy Premier Sadeq Tabatabai has been taken into custody on suspicion of drug smuggling after a public prosecutor said he might try to flee West Germany, a prosecution spokesman said Tuesday. Mr. Tabatabai, 39, a deputy premier in Iran's first post-revolutionary government in 1979 who is related to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini by marriage, was arrested 10 days ago at Dueseldorf airport. The public prosecutor said 1.6 kilograms of opium with a street value of 40,000 marks (\$17,000) were found in his luggage.

Genghis Khan's descendants protest

PEKING (R) — More than 1,400 Mongols living in the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan have petitioned the authorities to be recognised as descendants of the Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said Tuesday. The Mongols conquered Yunnan in 1253 A.D. and the banner of Genghis Khan's grandson Kublai Khan, who led an army of 100,000 into the region and established a Mongol regime after wiping out the local Chinese state, it said. When the Mongol kingdom was overthrown by the Ming Dynasty in 1381, many Mongol soldiers failed to return to their homes in the grasslands of North China, 5,000 kilometres away. But the agency said their descendants used family genealogies, stone inscriptions and Buddhist scriptures to preserve their ethnic identity.

Afghan rebels kill 1 abducted Soviet

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels have shot dead at least one of up to 16 Soviet civilian advisers abducted in northern Afghanistan earlier this month, Western diplomatic sources said here Tuesday. The sources, quoting reports from the area, said the adviser was shot when he tried to escape. Western diplomats reported last week that the Russians were abducted from the main bazaar of Mazar-i-Sharif, capital of Balkh province which borders the Soviet Union. But they said Tuesday the abduction took place on Jan. 3 or 4 outside the town, while the advisers were travelling by a minibus. Two Afghan women with them, who were believed to be prostitutes, were also seized. An Afghan resistance spokesman in Pakistan last week put the number of people abducted at 15.

Malaysia executes 2 of Chinese origin

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Two men were hanged Tuesday for illegal possession of firearms under Malaysia's security laws, despite last-minute appeals for clemency, a defence lawyer said. Bus driver Tan Chay Wa, a 32-year-old Singaporean, whose case was taken up by international human rights organisations, was hanged here at dawn with Chiew Thiam Guan, a 23-year-old Malaysian Chinese. But two other men convicted under the internal security act had been granted a stay of execution pending an appeal to the federal court, lawyer Karpal Singh said. The Malaysian government rejected an offer last May by a French church-based human rights organisation called Cimade to adopt Tan. He was arrested three years ago and convicted in 1981. Mr. Karpal said a Thai taxi driver, Siri Chal See Voon, 26, was due to be executed on Thursday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♠Q82 ♠K10762 ♠AK3
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ54 ♠83 ♠AKQ1076 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠7 ♠KJ8652 ♠93 ♠K1054
Partner opens the bidding

with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ84 ♠8 ♠93 ♠AKJ872
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ82 ♠Q762 ♠AKJ4 ♠102
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ82 ♠KQJ872 ♠A ♠A6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

كردت مع الامم